

REMARKS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-4, 6, and 10-18 are now pending in this application.

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the careful consideration given to the claims.

Rejection of claims 1-4 and 6-18 based on Komowski

Claims 1-4 and 6-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,319,112 ("Komowski"). For at least the following reasons, this rejection is traversed.

Claim 1 (as amended) recites, among other things, a circumferential surface of a part-cylinder, wherein the circumferential surface forms a first region, two circle segment surfaces forming lateral side surfaces of the part-cylinder, wherein each circle segment surface forms a second region, an externally surrounding rim, which is arranged substantially in two planes, projects outward and serves to bear against correspondingly designed bearing surfaces, at least a second rim running along the circumferential surface, the circle segment surfaces, or a combination thereof, and at least one opening in at least one segment of the first region, one or both of the second regions, or a combination thereof. The at least one segment is delimited by the externally surrounding rim and the second rim. Claim 11 recites similar and/or analogous features. Komowski does not teach or suggest this combination of features.

For instance, Komowski does not teach that the outer surface of element 434 (which the PTO considers to be part of the circle segment surfaces of claims 1 and 11) form any part of the lateral side surface of the part-cylinder. The outer surface 434 of Komowski is a circumferential surface. Also, the inner surface of element 435 of Komowski (which the PTO considers to be part of the part-cylinder surface of claims 1 and 11) do not form any part of the circumferential surface of the part-cylinder. The inner surface 435 of Komowski is a lateral surface.

At best, the element 434 is considered to be the circumferential surface forming the first region and element 435 is the lateral side surface forming the second region. Given this proper interpretation of the first and second regions, Komowski does not teach or suggest at

least a second rim running along the circumferential surface, the circle segment surfaces, or a combination thereof because the outer edge 412 of Komowski (which the PTO considers to be the second rim of claims 1 and 11) does not run along the circumferential surface or the circle segment surfaces. Thus, Komowski does not teach or suggest all the features of claims 1 and 11.

Claim 13 (as amended) recites, among other things, a part-cylinder surface, which forms a first region, two circle segment surfaces, wherein each circle segment surface forms a second region, an externally surrounding rim, which is arranged substantially in two planes, projects outward and serves to bear against correspondingly designed bearing surfaces, at least a second rim, which serves to bear against a corresponding designed bearing surface, a third region, wherein the second rim runs substantially around the third region, and a planar intermediate region arranged at an angle not equal to 180° from the third region. The third region indirectly adjoins a lateral surface in a region of the externally surrounding rim via the intermediate region. Claim 17 recites similar and/or analogous features. Komowski does not teach or suggest this combination of features.

For instance, Komowski does not teach at least a second rim; a third region, wherein the second rim runs substantially around the third region; and a planar intermediate region arranged at an angle from the third region such that the third region indirectly adjoins a lateral surface in a region of the externally surrounding rim via the intermediate region. The PTO considers the linear section 436 of Komowski to be the third region and the “region between 435 and 434” to be the intermediate region of claims 13 and 17. (Page 3 of the Office Action.) However, there is no planar region between the air-directing element 435 and the circular cylindrical section 434 because the air-directing element 435 extends laterally from the circular cylindrical section 434. Also, the linear section 436 of Komowski (which the PTO considers to be the third region of claims 13 and 17) is not indirectly adjoining a lateral surface in a region of the second edge 414 (which the PTO considers to be the externally surrounding rim of claims 13 and 17) via any planar region. Thus, Komowski does not teach or suggest at least a second rim; a third region, wherein the second rim runs substantially around the third region; and a planar intermediate region arranged at an angle from the third region such that the third region indirectly adjoins a lateral surface in a region of the

externally surrounding rim via the intermediate region. Accordingly, Komowski does not teach or suggest all the features of claim 13 or 17.

Claims 2-4, 6, 10, 12, 14-16 and 18 depend from and contain all the features of claim 1, 11, 13, or 17 and are allowable for the same reasons provided above without regard to the further patentable features contained therein.

Claims 7-9 have been canceled, which renders the rejections of these claims moot.

For at least these reasons, favorable reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Allowability of claims 19-20

Claims 19-20 depend from and contain all the features of claim 13 or 17 and are allowable for the same reasons provided above without regard to the further patentable features contained therein. For at least these reasons, allowance of claims 19-20 is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.


The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing or a credit card payment form being unsigned, providing incorrect information resulting in a rejected credit card transaction, or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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